

Message Text

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16

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035346

TOSEC 78

FOL TEL AVIV 1036 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO

BEIRUT GENEVA JERUSALEM JIDDA PARIS USUN NEW YORK FEB. 21, 1974

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1036

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PKOR, SY, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA

1. ISRAELI PRESS IN ITS STORIES FEB 21 ABOUT SECRETARY'S FORTH-
COMING VISIT IS UNANIMOUS IN CONCLUSION THAT SYRIANS WOULD NOT HAVE
ENCOURAGED START OF NEGOTIATIONS ON DISENGAGEMENT THROUGH
SECRETARY IF THEY DID NOT HAVE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIVING ISRAELI POWS
WHICH THEY KNEW WOULD BE "ACCEPTABLE" TO ISRAEL. (PRESS DOES NOT
INDICATE WHAT AN ACCEPTABLE NUMBER WOULD BE, BUT IT IS GENERALLY
KNOWN THAT GOI LISTS ABOUT 120 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WHO ARE MISSING
AS POTENTIAL POWS IN SYRIA AND THAT GOI EXPECTS ACTUAL NUMBER
OF POWS IN SYRIA TO BE SMALLER.)

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2. FRENCH EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAS SHOWN US FEB 18

CABLE FROM FRENCH EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTING "RUMOR"
MAKING ROUNDS THAT SYRIA IS HOLDING 125 OR 126 ISRAELI POWS
AND THAT FIVE OR SIX OF THESE ARE ACTUALLY CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS
WHO WEREWORKING ON IDF RADAR SITES IN GOLAN HEIGHTS WHEN
CAPTURED. COUNSELOR SAID HE THOUGHT THIS FIGURE WAS MUCH TOO
HIGH. HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ABSOLUTE MAX-
IMUM NUMBER OF POWS THEY BELIEVED SYRIANS HELD WAS NINETY.
KEATING UNQUOTE RUSH

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